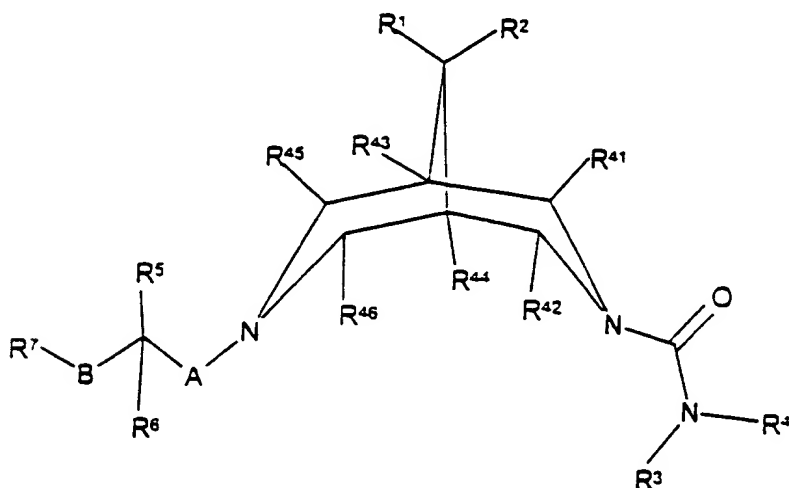


**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1 (currently amended). A compound of formula I,



wherein

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently represent H,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $OR^{2b}$  or  $N(R^{2c})R^{2d}$ , or together form  $-O-(CH_2)_2-O-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_3-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_4-$  or  $-(CH_2)_5-$ ;

$R^{2b}$ ,  $R^{2c}$  and  $R^{2d}$  independently represent H or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

$R^3$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or, together with  $R^4$ , represents  $C_{3-6}$  alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or is optionally substituted by one or more  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl groups);

$R^4$  represents H,  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy (which latter two groups are both optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy),  $-(CH_2)_q$ -aryl,  $-(CH_2)_q$ -oxyaryl,  $-(CH_2)_q$ -Het<sup>1</sup> (which latter three groups are optionally substituted (at the  $-(CH_2)_q$ - part and/or the aryl/Het<sup>1</sup> part) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $-C(O)R^{10}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{11}$ ,  $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy),  $-(CH_2)_qN(H)C(O)R^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qS(O)_2R^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)R^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)OR^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)N(R^9)R^8$  or, together with  $R^3$ , represents  $C_{3-6}$  alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or is optionally substituted by one or more  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl groups);

q represents 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

$R^8$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected from -OH, halo, cyano, nitro,  $-C(O)R^{10}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{11}$ ,  $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy) or, together with  $R^9$ , represents  $C_{3-7}$  alkylene;

$R^9$  represents H,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl or, together with  $R^8$ , represents  $C_{3-7}$  alkylene;

Het<sup>1</sup> represents a five to twelve-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

$R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$  or  $R^{46}$  independently represent H or  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl;

$R^5$  represents H, halo,  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl,  $-OR^{12}$ ,  $-N(R^{13})R^{12}$  or, together with  $R^6$ , represents  $=O$ ;

$R^6$  represents H,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl or, together with  $R^5$ , represents  $=O$ ;

$R^{12}$  represents H,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl,  $-S(O)_2-C_{1-4}$ -alkyl,  $-C(O)R^{14}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{14}$ ,  $-C(O)N(R^{15})R^{15a}$  or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituents selected from  $-OH$ , halo, cyano, nitro,  $-C(O)R^{10}$ ,  $-C(O)OR^{11}$ ,  $-N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and/or  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy);

$R^{13}$  represents H or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl;

$R^{14}$  represents H or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

$R^{15}$  and  $R^{15a}$  independently represent H or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, or together represent  $C_{3-6}$  alkylene, optionally interrupted by an O atom;

A represents a single bond,  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene,  $-N(R^{16})(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-O(CH_2)_r-$  (in which two latter groups, the  $-(CH_2)_r-$  group is attached to the bispidine nitrogen atom);

B represents a single bond,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $-(CH_2)_nN(R^{17})-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_nS(O)_p-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_nO-$  (in which three latter groups, the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group is attached to the carbon atom bearing  $R^5$  and  $R^6$ ),  $-C(O)N(R^{17})-$  (in which latter group, the  $-C(O)-$  group is attached to the carbon atom bearing  $R^5$  and  $R^6$ ),  $-N(R^{17})C(O)O(CH_2)_n-$ ,  $-N(R^{17})(CH_2)_n-$  (in which two latter groups, the  $N(R^{17})$  group is attached to the carbon atom bearing  $R^5$  and  $R^6$ ) or  $-(CH_2)_mC(H)(OH)(CH_2)_n-$  (in which latter group, the  $-(CH_2)_m-$  group is attached to the carbon atom bearing  $R^5$  and  $R^6$ );

m represents 1, 2 or 3;

n and r independently represent 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p represents 0, 1 or 2;

R<sup>16</sup> and R<sup>17</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>7</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, aryl or Het<sup>2</sup>, all of which groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated (as appropriate) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, Het<sup>3</sup>, -C(O)R<sup>10</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>11</sup>, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, -N(H)S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>18</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>19</sup>, -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>20</sup>, -N(H)C(O)N(H)R<sup>21</sup>, -C(O)N(H)R<sup>22</sup> and/or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano groups);

Het<sup>2</sup> and Het<sup>3</sup> independently represent a five to twelve-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and/or sulfur, and which also optionally includes one or more =O substituents;

R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> independently represent C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> independently represent H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl (optionally terminated by cyano); and

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> independently represent, at each individual occurrence, H or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

R<sup>11a</sup> represents, at each individual occurrence, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl;

or a salt or solvate thereof;

provided that:

(a) ~~when A and B are both single bonds and R<sup>7</sup> is aryl optionally substituted aryl with a group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, then R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> do not both represent H~~ B-CR<sub>5</sub>CR<sub>6</sub>-A does not represent a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylene group;

(b) when A represents a single bond, then R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> do not together represent =O; and

(c) when R<sup>5</sup> represents -OR<sup>12</sup> or -N(R<sup>13</sup>)R<sup>12</sup>, then:-

(i) A does not represent -N(R<sup>16</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>- or -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-; and/or

(ii) n does not represent 0 when B represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>N(R<sup>17</sup>)-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>S(O)<sub>p</sub>- or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>O-.

2 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R' represents H.

3 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> represents H.

4 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>3</sup> represents H; C<sub>1-2</sub> alkyl; or, together with R<sup>4</sup> represents C<sub>4-5</sub> alkylene, optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or optionally substituted by one or more methyl groups.

5 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein  $R^3$  represents H.

6 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^4$  represents H; linear or branched and/or saturated or unsaturated and/or cyclic, acyclic and/or part cyclic/acyclic  $C_{1-8}$  alkyl (which alkyl group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano or halo groups and/or is interrupted by an O atom);  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy;  $-(CH_2)_qS(O)_2R^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)OR^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qN(H)C(O)R^8$ ,  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)R^8$ , (in which latter four groups, q represents 0, 1 or 2 and  $R^8$  represents linear or branched and/or acyclic, cyclic and/or part cyclic/acyclic  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, or phenyl (which phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano and/or  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl groups));  $-(CH_2)_qC(O)N(R^9)R^8$  (in which latter group, q represents 0, 1 or 2 and  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  independently represent H, linear or branched and/or acyclic, cyclic and/or part cyclic/acyclic  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, or together represent  $C_{4-6}$  alkylene);  $-(CH_2)_q$ -phenyl,  $-(CH_2)_q$ -oxyphenyl or  $-(CH_2)_q$ -Het<sup>1</sup> (in which latter three groups, q represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, the  $-(CH_2)_q$ - part is optionally substituted by a cyano group, and the phenyl, or Het<sup>1</sup>, part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, linear or branched  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy and  $N(H)S(O)_2R^{11a}$ ); or, together with  $R^3$ , represents  $C_{4-5}$  alkylene, optionally interrupted by an O atom and/or optionally substituted by one or more methyl groups.

7 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^5$  represents H; fluoro;  $OR^{12}$  (in which  $R^{12}$  represents H, phenyl (optionally substituted by one or more methoxy groups) or  $C(O)N(H)R^{15a}$  (in which  $R^{15a}$  represents linear or branched  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl));  $-N(R^{13})(R^{12})$  (in which  $R^{12}$  represents H,  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl,  $-S(O)_2-C_{1-2}$  alkyl,  $-C(O)R^{14}$  (in which  $R^{14}$  represents  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl),  $-C(O)OR^{14}$  (in which  $R^{14}$  represents linear or branched  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl) or  $-C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{15a})$  (in which  $R^{15}$  independently represent H or linear or branched  $C_{1-3}$  alkyl or together represent  $C_{4-5}$  alkylene, which alkylene group is optionally interrupted by an O atom) and  $R^{13}$  represents H or  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl); or, together with  $R^6$ , represents  $=O$ .

8 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 7, wherein  $R^5$  represents H, OH or  $-N(H)C(O)N(R^{15})(R^{15a})$ .

9 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^6$  represents H or  $C_{1-2}$  alkyl or together with  $R^5$  represents  $=O$ .

10 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 9, wherein  $R^6$  represents H.

11 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein A represents a single bond, linear or branched  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene (which group is also optionally interrupted by O),  $-N(H)(CH_2)_r-$  or  $-O(CH_2)_r-$  (in which latter two cases r is 1 or 2).

12 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 11, wherein A represents  $-\text{CH}_2-$  or  $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$ .

13 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein B represents a single bond,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{O}-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{N}(\text{H})-$  or  $-\text{N}(\text{H})(\text{CH}_2)_n-$  (in which latter four cases n is 0, 1, 2 or 3).

14 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 13, wherein B represents a single bond,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{H})-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ .

15 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}^7$  represents linear or branched and/or acyclic, cyclic and/or part cyclic/acyclic  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl (optionally substituted and/or terminated by OH);  $\text{Het}^2$  (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano,  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl, phenyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more cyano groups),  $=\text{O}$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^{10}$  (in which  $\text{R}^{10}$  is linear or branched  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl) or  $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^{19}$  (in which  $\text{R}^{19}$  is  $\text{C}_{1-2}$  alkyl); or phenyl (optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, linear or branched  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl, linear or branched  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkoxy, fluoro, chloro,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{H})\text{R}^{22}$  (in which  $\text{R}^{22}$  represents linear or branched and/or acyclic, cyclic and/or part cyclic/acyclic  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl, which alkyl group is optionally terminated by cyano),  $\text{N}(\text{H})\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^{18}$  (in which  $\text{R}^{18}$  represents  $\text{C}_{1-2}$  alkyl) or  $\text{Het}^3$ ).



16 (original). A compound as claimed in Claim 15, wherein  $R^7$  represents phenyl (substituted by a cyano group (preferably in the 4-position relative to B) and by one or more optional  $C(O)N(H)R^{22}$  substituent).

17 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$  and  $R^{46}$  all represent H.

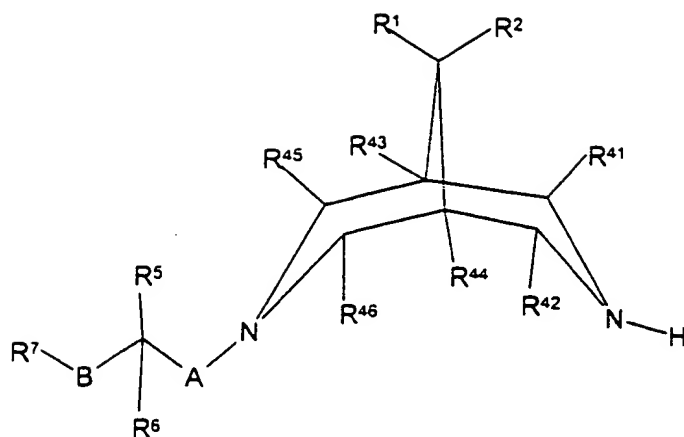
18 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1 in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

19-23 (cancelled).

24 (previously presented). A method of prophylaxis or treatment of an arrhythmia which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in Claim 1 to a person suffering from, a susceptible to, such a condition.

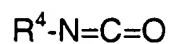
25 (previously presented). A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined in Claim 1 which comprises:

(a) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^3$  is H, reaction of a compound of formula II,



II

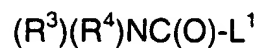
wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula III,



III

wherein  $R^4$  is as defined in Claim 1;

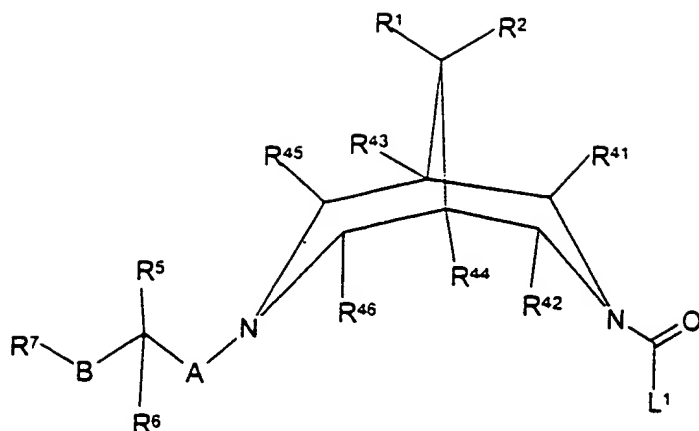
(b) reaction of a compound of formula II, as defined above, with a carbonic acid derivative of formula IV,



IV

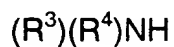
wherein  $L^1$  represents a leaving group and  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as defined in Claim 1;

(c) reaction of a compound of formula V,



V

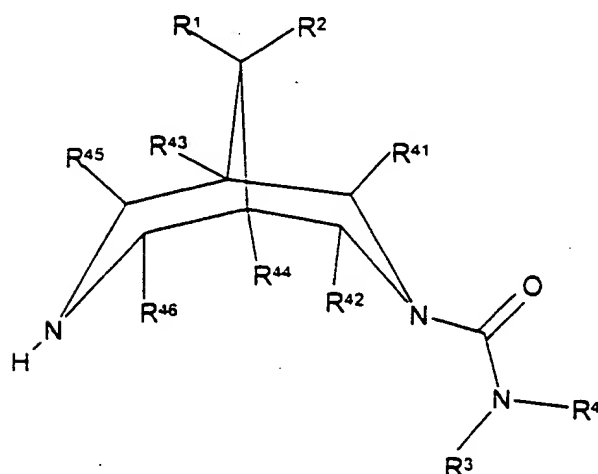
wherein  $L^1$  is as defined above and  $R^1, R^2, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^{41}, R^{42}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula VA,



VA

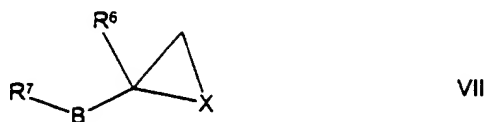
wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as defined in Claim 1;

(d) for compounds of formula I in which A represents  $CH_2$  and  $R^5$  represents  $-OH$  or  $-N(H)R^{12}$ , reaction of a compound of formula VI,



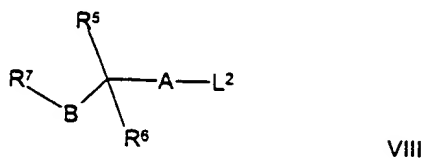
VI

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$  and  $R^{46}$  are as defined in Claim 1,  
 with a compound of formula VII,



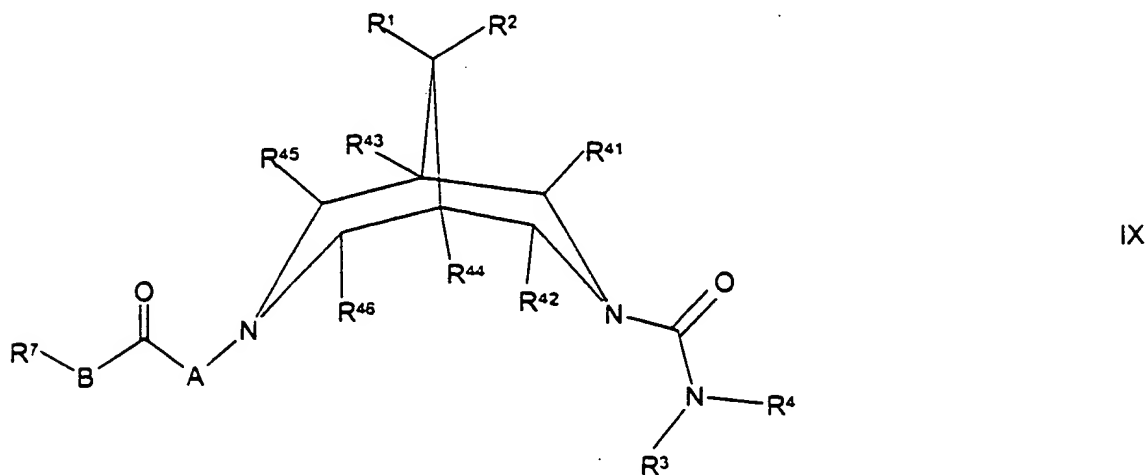
wherein X represents O or N( $R^{12}$ ) and  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{12}$  and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(e) reaction of a compound of formula VI, as defined above, with a compound of formula VIII,



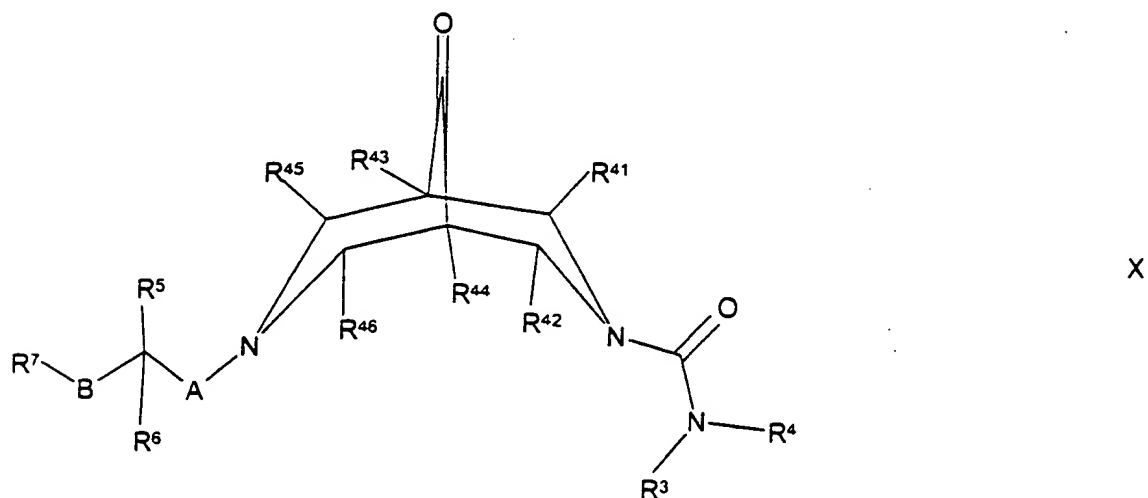
wherein  $L^2$  represents a leaving group and  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(f) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents H or OH and  $R^6$  represents H, reduction of a compound of formula IX,



wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1;

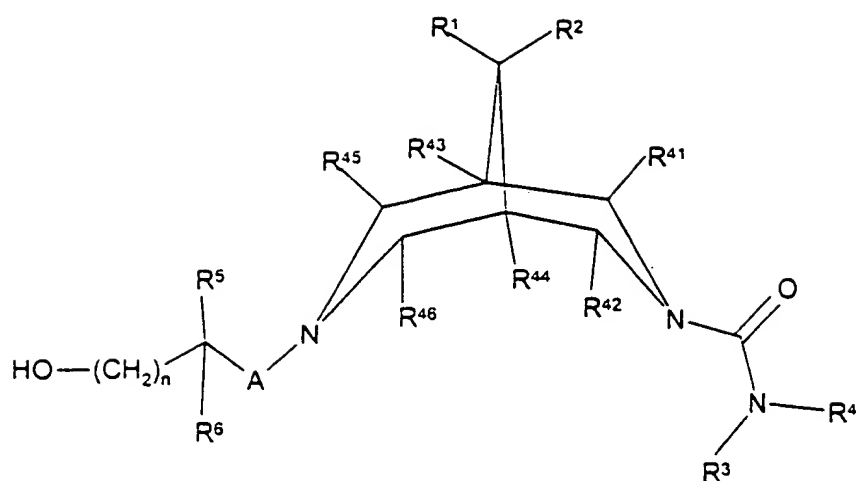
(g) for compounds of formula I in which one of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  represents H or OH and the other represents H, reduction of a corresponding compound of formula X,



wherein  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(h) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together represent  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}-$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula X as defined above with ethane-1,2-diol;

(i) for compounds of formula I in which B represents  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{O}-$ , reaction of a compound of formula XI,



XI

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and n are as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula XIA,

$R^7OH$

XIA

in which  $R^7$  is as defined in Claim 1;

(j) for compounds of formula I which are bispidine-nitrogen N-oxide derivatives, oxidation of the corresponding bispidine nitrogen of a corresponding

compound of formula I;

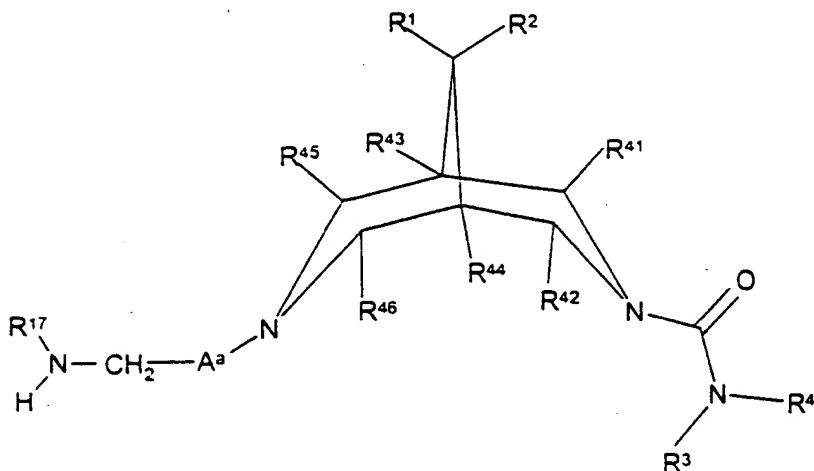
(k) for compounds of formula I which are C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl quaternary ammonium salt derivatives, in which the alkyl group is attached to a bispidine nitrogen, reaction, at the bispidine nitrogen, of a corresponding compound of formula I with a compound of formula XII,



XII

wherein R<sup>b</sup> represents C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl and L<sup>3</sup> is a leaving group;

(1) for compounds of formula I in which R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> represent H, A represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene and B represents -N(R<sup>17</sup>)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-, reaction of a compound of formula XIII,



XIII

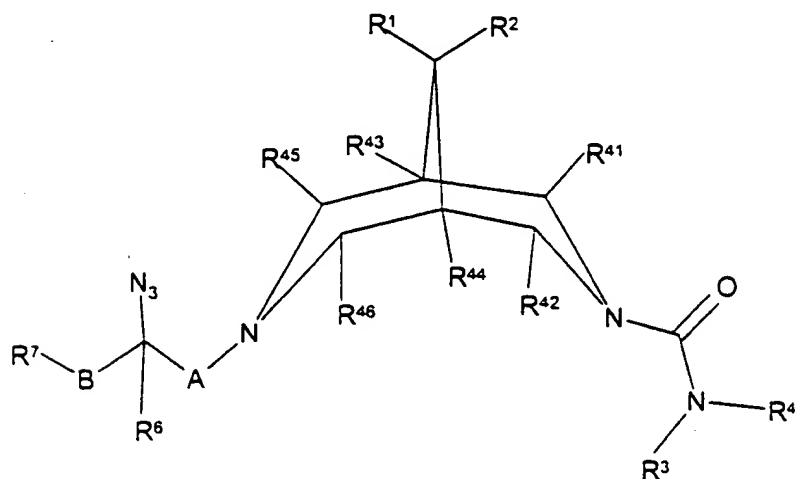
wherein A<sup>a</sup> represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylene and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>41</sup>, R<sup>42</sup>, R<sup>43</sup>, R<sup>44</sup>, R<sup>45</sup>, R<sup>46</sup> and R<sup>17</sup> are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XIV,



XIV

wherein  $L^2$  is as defined above and  $R^7$  and  $n$  are as defined in Claim 1;

(m) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-NH_2$ , reduction of a corresponding compound of formula XV,

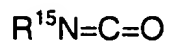


XV

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(n) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents

$-N(R^{13})C(O)NH(R^{15})$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-N(R^{13})H$  with a compound of formula XVI,

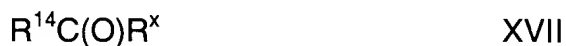


XVI

wherein  $R^{15}$  is as defined in Claim 1;



(o) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-N(R^{13})C(O)R^{14}$ , reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-N(R^{13})H$  with a compound of formula XVII,



wherein  $R^x$  represents a suitable leaving group and  $R^{14}$  is as defined in Claim 1;

(p) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-N(H)R^{12}$ , wherein  $R^{12}$  is as defined in Claim 1 provided that it does not represent H, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I, in which  $R^5$  represents  $-NH_2$  with a compound of formula XVIII,



wherein  $R^{12a}$  represents  $R^{12}$  as defined in Claim 1 provided that it does not represent H and  $L^1$  is as defined above;

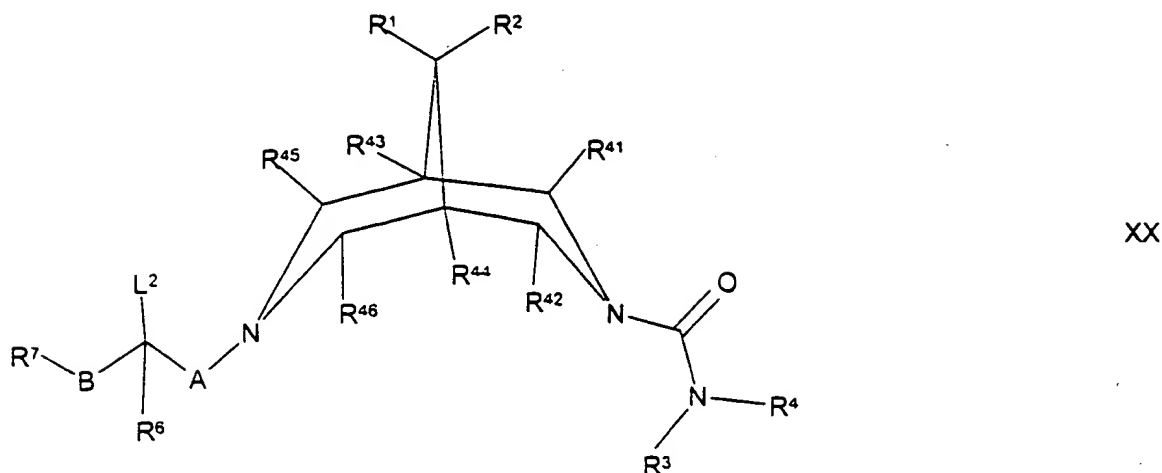
(q) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-OR^{12}$  in which  $R^{12}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or optionally substituted aryl, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-OH$  with a compound of formula XIX,



wherein  $R^{12a}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or optionally substituted aryl;

(r) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents  $-OR^{12}$ , in which  $R^{12}$

represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or optionally substituted aryl, reaction of a compound of formula XX,



wherein L<sup>2</sup> is as defined above and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>41</sup>, R<sup>42</sup>, R<sup>43</sup>, R<sup>44</sup>, R<sup>45</sup>, R<sup>46</sup>, A and B are as defined in Claim 1 with a compound of formula XIX as defined above;

(s) for compounds of formula I in which R<sup>5</sup> represents OR<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> represents C(O)R<sup>14</sup>, reaction of a corresponding compound of formula I in which R<sup>5</sup> represents OH with a compound of formula XXI,



XXI

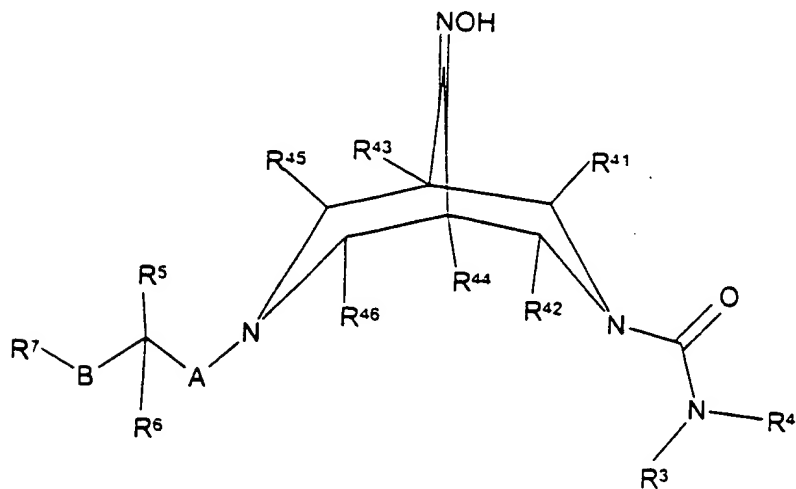
wherein R<sup>14</sup> is as defined in Claim 1;

(t) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents halo, substitution of a corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^5$  represents -OH, using an appropriate halogenating agent;

(u) for compounds of formula I in which  $R^3$  and/or  $R^4$  as appropriate represent alkyl groups, alkylation of a corresponding compound of formula I, in which  $R^3$  and/or  $R^4$  (as appropriate) represent H;

(v) conversion of one  $R^4$  group to another;

(w) for compounds of formula I in which one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  represents  $-\text{NH}_2$  and the other represents H, reduction of a compound of formula XXIA,



XXIA

wherein  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$ ,  $R^{46}$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1;

(x) for compounds of formula I in which one or both of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  represent  $\text{N}(\text{R}^{2c})\text{R}^{2d}$  in which one or both of  $R^{2c}$  and  $R^{2d}$  represents  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl, alkylation of a

corresponding compound of formula I in which  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  represent  $-N(R^{2c})R^{2d}$  (as appropriate) in which  $R^{2c}$  and/or  $R^{2d}$  (as appropriate) represent H, using a compound of formula XXIB,



XXIB

wherein  $R^{2e}$  represents  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl and  $L^1$  is as defined above; or

(y) conversion of one substituent on  $R^7$  to another.

26 (previously presented). A compound of formula II, as defined in Claim 25, provided that  $R^7$  does not represent optionally substituted phenyl or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl.

27 (previously presented). A compound of formula V, as defined in Claim 25, provided that  $R^7$  does not represent optionally substituted phenyl.

28 (previously presented). A compound of formula X as defined in Claim 25.

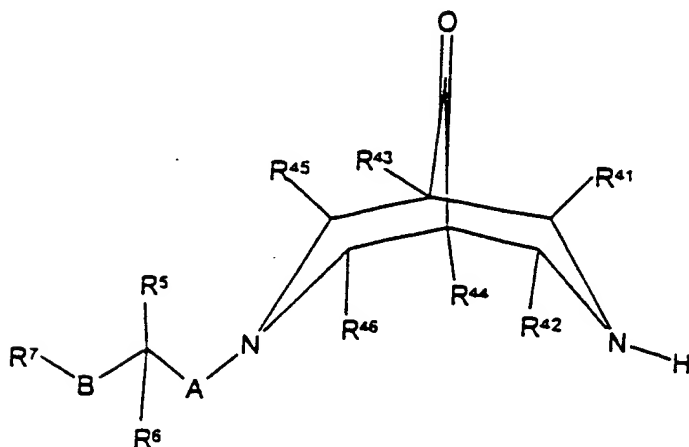
29 (previously presented). A compound of formula XI as defined in Claim 25.

30 (previously presented). A compound of formula XIII, as defined in Claim 25.

31 (previously presented) A compound of formula XV, as defined in Claim 25.

32 (previously presented). A compound of formula XX, as defined in Claim 25.

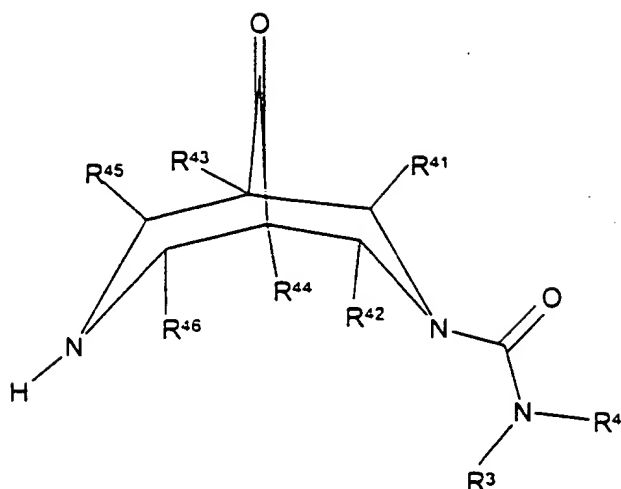
33 (previously presented). A compound of formula XXIII,



XXIII

wherein R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>41</sup>, R<sup>42</sup>, R<sup>43</sup>, R<sup>44</sup>, R<sup>45</sup>, R<sup>46</sup>, A and B are as defined in Claim 1, R<sup>7</sup> represents aryl or Het<sup>2</sup>, all of which groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated (as appropriate) by one or more substituents selected from -OH, cyano, halo, amino, nitro, Het<sup>3</sup>, -C(O)R<sup>10</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>11</sup>, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, -N(H)S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>18</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>19</sup>, -OS(O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>20</sup>, -N(H)C(O)N(H)R<sup>21</sup>, -C(O)N(H)R<sup>22</sup> and/or aryl (which latter group is optionally substituted by one or more cyano groups); provided that R<sup>7</sup> does not represent optionally substituted phenyl, provided that R<sub>7</sub> does not represent C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or optionally substituted phenyl.

34 (previously presented). A compound of formula XXV,

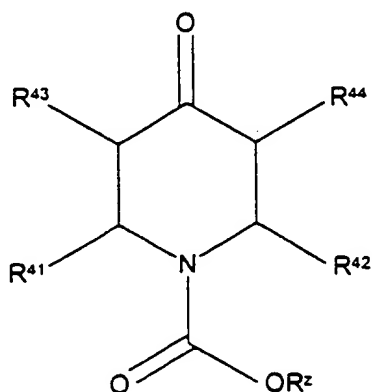


XXV

wherein  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$ ,  $R^{44}$ ,  $R^{45}$  and  $R^{46}$  are as defined in Claim 1.

35 (previously presented). A process for the preparation of a compound of formula X, of formula XXIII, or of formula XXV (in which, in all cases,  $R^{45}$  and  $R^{46}$  both represent H), which comprises (as appropriate) reaction of either:

(i) a compound of formula XXXV,

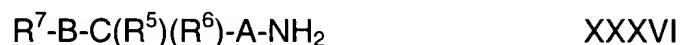


XXXV

wherein  $R^2$  represents  $C_{1-10}$  alkyl or  $C_{1-3}$  alkylaryl and  $R^{41}$ ,  $R^{42}$ ,  $R^{43}$  and  $R^{44}$  are as defined in Claim 1, or

(ii) 4-piperidone with (as appropriate) either:

(1) a compound of formula XXXVI,



wherein  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ , A and B are as defined in Claim 1, or

(2)  $NH_3$ ,

in all cases in the presence of a formaldehyde and, in the case of compounds of formulae X and XXV, followed by conversion of the  $C(O)OR^2$  group in the resultant intermediate to a  $C(O)N(R^3)(R^4)$  group.

36 (original). A process as claimed in Claim 35, in which the reaction is carried out in the presence of an organic acid.

37 (original). A process as claimed in Claim 36, in which the organic acid is acetic is acid.

38 (previously presented). A compound as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the cyano group is in the 4-position relative to B.

39 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the arrhythmia is an atrial or a ventricular arrhythmia.